



Sveriges lantbruksuniversitet
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

SLUkurs

Syllabus

PFG0019 Functioning of Boreal Forest Ecosystems, 7.5 credits

Syllabus approved

2006-11-01

Subjects

Biology

Education cycle

Third cycle

Grading scale

Pass / Failed

The requirements for attaining different grades are described in the course assessment criteria which are contained in a supplement to the course syllabus. Current information on assessment criteria shall be made available at the start of the course.

Language

English

Prior knowledge

The course is open to all PhD students who have an interest in boreal ecosystems. We will limit the course to 25 participants, and will select applicants on the basis of merit and relevance of their research interest if the number of applicants exceed the number of positions available.

Objective, including learning outcomes

This course will provide a comprehensive coverage on topics relevant to the functioning of boreal forest ecosystems.

Content

The course will include topics with linkages between the aboveground and belowground subsystems, nutrient cycling, ecosystem effects of herbivores, functioning of mycorrhizae, the role of major disturbances (notably fire), and current and historic aspects of human influences on boreal ecosystems.

Requirements for examination

The course will consist of a mixture of lectures, student presentations, discussion groups, and field trips and field instructions. The students are expected to be prepared in advance for the discussions.

Additional information

The course will run over a 5 week period from May 7 to June 9, 2007. The first four weeks are for preparations, and individual tasks and literature will be distributed well beforehand. The fifth week, between June 3-9 2007 will be held in Arvidsjaur approximately 300 km NW of Umeå, Sweden. Students are responsible for covering their transports to and from Umeå. All costs including food, travels and lodging during the course will be covered by SLU.

For your application please prepare a brief CV and a statement of 200 words or less outlining your PhD research topic and why you think the course would be beneficial to you. Application and enquiries should be sent to Marie-Charlotte Nilsson by e-mail no later than December 22, 2006. 5 Swe credits equals 7.5 ECTS.

The course will be taught by 7 ecologists who each have been actively involved on various aspects of northern ecosystems. These instructors are: Prof Marie-Charlotte Nilsson (SLU, Umeå), Prof David Wardle (SLU, Umeå), Dr Greger Hörnberg (SLU, Umeå), Prof Richard Bardgett (University of Lancaster, UK), Prof Heikki Setälä (Univ of Helsinki, Finland), Prof Olle Zackrisson (SLU, Umeå), and Dr Michael Gundale (SLU, Umeå).

Responsible department

Department of Forest Ecology and Management